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## **COMP422 Project 2 Report**

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COMP422 — Data Mining, Neural Networks and Genetic  
Programming.

**Abstract**

# 1 Introduction

This report contains six questions. The first is XOR problem using multilayer feedforward neural network and genetic programming. Then make a comparison between these two approaches. The second question related to digit recognition using neural networks and nearest neighbour method. The third question, symbolic regression problem is a classic problem for genetic programming. The fourth question shows that GP also can be a classifier. The fifth question use GP method as a feature construction method. In question six, we apply two feature selection approach: wrapper and filter and make a comparison between these two.

## 2 Tools and Environment:

Operating System: Unix/Linux

Programming Language: Python, Shell

Tools and Libraries: snns, Weka, Deap

## 3 XOR Problem:

### 3.1 GP Approach

Genetic programming is a special field of evolutionary computation that aims at building programs automatically to solve problems independently of their domain. Although there exists diverse representations used to evolve programs, the most common is the syntax tree.

### 3.2 Function set and terminal set

In the function set, the three logical operators were used to form the function set:

$$FuncSet = \{and, or, \neg\}$$

The *and*, *or*,  $\neg$  operators have their usual meanings. *And* and *or* take two arguments. The terminal set contains constants and the arguments. In this case, the constants only contain boolean values: *True* and *False*.

$$TermSet = \{True, False, Input1, Input2\}$$

### 3.3 Fitness Function

The fitness function uses the truth table of XOR to validate the genetic programs. The truth table contains four data sets:

Truth table:

$p$	$q$	$p \vee q$
T	T	F
T	F	T
F	T	T
F	F	F

Figure 1: XOR truth table

If the genetic program successfully calculate the value, the fitness will increase by one.

pseudocode:

**if** *genetic\_program\_func(input1,input2) == desired\_value* :  
     *fitness* + = 1

The range of the fitness value is from 0 to 4. Clearly, when fitness equals 4, the genetic program calculate four dataset correctly.

### 3.4 Parameters

In order to conclude what influence it may has in terms of different parameters. We made 5 GP programs with one different parameter. Therefore we could see how the different parameters impact on GP.

There are 4 different parameters: crossover rate, mutation rate,max mutation size, population.

	Default	Larger POP	Larger CR	Larger MR	Larger MT
population(POP)	20	40	20	20	20
Crossover rate(CR)	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.6
Mutation rate(MR)	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.1	0.02
Max mutation tree size(MT)	4	4	4	4	6

We would employ a box plot chart to visualize the final result.

### 3.5 Termination criteria

Once there is one genetic program satisfied the fitness value equals four, the GP program stopped and returns the result. The GP program uses roulette as its selection method.

### 3.6 Result Analysis

Three best genetic program for XOR problem:

1.  $((x||x)|| (y||x)) \&\& \neg (y\&\&x))$
2.  $(y||x) \&\& \neg (y\&\&x)$
3.  $((x||y)|| x) \&\& \neg (x\&\&y)$

As we discussed in the previous section, we test 5 groups of GP using different parameters. Then we use a box plot chart to visualize the result.

As we can see from Figure 2, the y axis shows the number of generations. The x axis shows the categories of GP. Figure 2 shows that the larger mutation size (maximum 6 depth) seems could largely improve the overall performance by significantly reduce the generations. Larger mutation rate also has a significant influence on the result. The overall performance increased, however the median value seems does not improve at all. Population and larger cross rate seems have little impact on the result, the reason may because our question is relatively easy and small scale. If we conduct a very complex question that a larger population could have large impact because of the diversity of the gene.

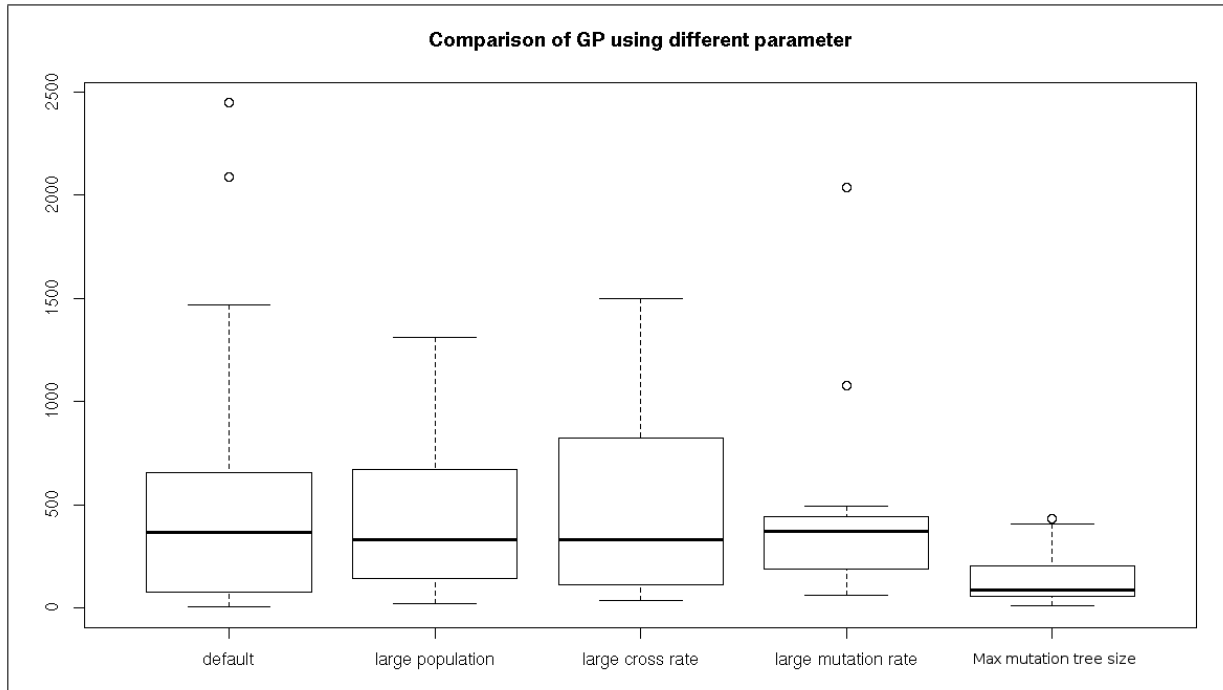


Figure 2: comparison of GP using different parameter

### 3.7 Artificial Neural Network Approach

#### 3.7.1 One hidden layer, two hidden nodes

We built a neural network with 2 input nodes, 2 hidden nodes and 1 output node.

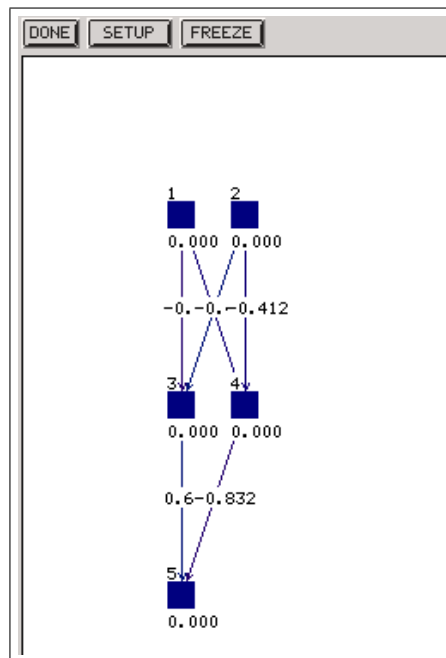


Figure 3: neural network architecture

Then we load the xor problem pattern into SNNS. It defines the number of class, the number of input nodes, the number of output nodes and each pattern. We initialize the

neural network with random weights. As we can see from Figure 3, the neural network are fully connected, all connections are initialized with random weights.

We use training set to train this neural network. We defines 10, 000 epochs as a stop criteria with 0.2 learning rate. Figure 4 shows the error rate of this neural network drops significantly along with training process.

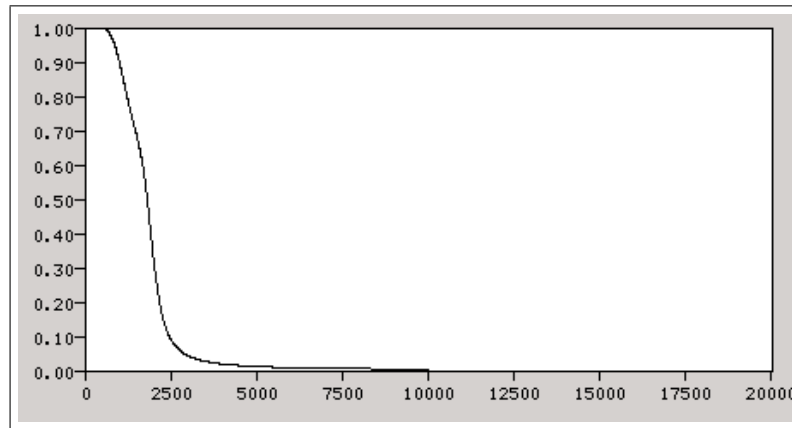


Figure 4: error rate drops along with the training process

During the 10,000 epochs training process, the weights of the connections gradually changed. The bias of each hidden nodes and output node also changed. Figure 5 shows the result of test, using four patterns after 10, 000 epochs training. We could easily see the changes in weights, but the SNNS does not show the bias on the graph. Clearly, the neural network produces a good result by reaching more than 97% accuracy.

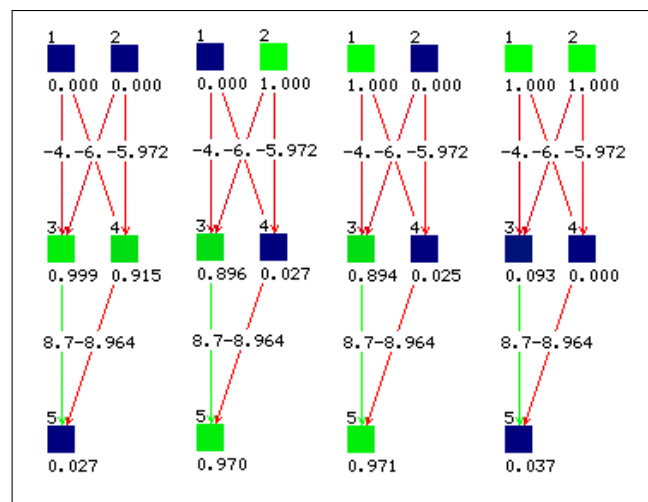


Figure 5: test with four patterns after 10,000 epochs training

### 3.7.2 One hidden layer, one hidden node

As a comparison, we use a different structure neural network to do the classification. Figure 6 shows the neural network with only one hidden node, however, it has shortcut between input nodes and output node. If we only use one hidden node and without any shortcuts. Then the neural network could never solve the XOR problem no matter how many epochs it takes.

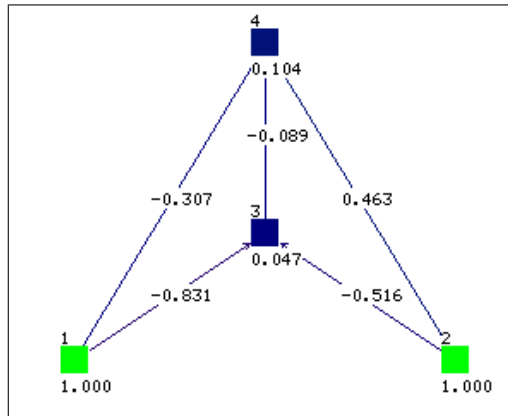


Figure 6: neural network architecture

We also use four patterns to train the neural network. We also train it with 10,000 epochs. We test four patterns. The result shows 96.5% classification accuracy.

### 3.7.3 Comparison between two architecture

As we use same training pattern, same epochs to train two neural networks, clearly, two hidden nodes could produce better result (97%). On the other hand, the training process of neural network with one hidden one seems faster than 2 hidden nodes neural network.

## 3.8 Comparison between Neural network and GP

Neural network and GP are quite different approach with different purposes. Neural network is a classifier. However, GP is a searching algorithm. Both approaches could solve the XOR problem. But they actually produce complete different solutions.

Neural network itself is the solution to this problem. Because after certain times of epoch of training, the neural network has the ability to solve this problem.

On the other hand, GP is an algorithm try to search for a solution. After generation and generations, GP could find a solution with 100% accuracy in this case.

## 4 Digit Recognition

This question concerns applying neural networks and nearest neighbour to 4 digit datasets. The dataset that the report chooses: 1( 0% noise ), 4( 15% noise), 6( 30% noise), 9( 60% noise).

We first clean up the raw dataset. Divide all dataset into training set and test set, each of set contains 500 lines data. Then we apply neural network and nearest neighbour using Weka.

### 4.1 First Dataset with no noise

Since there is no precise standard of how to choose the number of hidden layer and hidden nodes. What we are trying to do is manually adjust these numbers and see if the neural network produce a good result. We set learning rate = 0.3, momentum = 0.2, Stopping criteria: 500 epochs

We have tried many architectures:

hidden layers	hidden nodes	Training accuracy
1	1	30%
1	2	70%
1	3	100%
2	each layer 1 node	30%
2	each layer 2 nodes	40%

As we can see from the above table, more layers does not necessarily improve the performance. A neural network with 1 hidden layer and 3 hidden nodes could provide a almost perfect result. This is the confusion matrix produced by testing with the test set. In compar-

=== Confusion Matrix ===										
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	
50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	a = 0
0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	b = 1
0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	c = 2
0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	d = 3
0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	e = 4
0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	f = 5
0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	g = 6
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	h = 7
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	i = 8
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	j = 9

Figure 7: confusion matrix

ison with KNN. We employ KNN classifier with 1 neighbour. The correct rate reach 100% with 0 seconds. In comparison with 3 hidden nodes neural network. The training process took neural network 6.2 seconds. Clearly, KNN performance well in this task.

#### 4.2 Fourth Dataset with 15% noise

We set: learning rate = 0.3, momentum = 0.2, Stopping criteria: 500 epochs

hidden layers	hidden nodes	Training accuracy
1	3	91.4%
1	4	99%
1	5	99.2%
2	first layer 3,second layer 2	58.2%
2	each layer 3 nodes	69.8%

Since 3 hidden nodes in one hidden layer work well in no noise dataset, we apply this in 15% noise dataset. The result shows 91.4% accuracy. Then we try 4 and 5 hidden nodes, they both improved hugely in the performance. Then we try multi-hidden layers, as a result, it does not work well. This is the confusion matrix,produced by 5 hidden nodes neural network tested on testing set: In comparison with KNN: KNN achieve 93.4% accuracy with 0 second learning time. In comparison with the best result in neural network, 5 hidden nodes in one hidden layer: It took neural network 4.62 seconds to train and 4.5 seconds to test. It achieve 90.2% accuracy in the test set. The KNN achieve much better performance.

```

=== Confusion Matrix ===
  a  b c  d e f g h i j <-- classified as
50  0  0  0  0  0  0  0  0  0 | a = 0
146 0  0  0  0  0  0  3  0  0 | b = 1
  0  0 49  0  0  0  0  0  1  0 | c = 2
  0  0  2 40  0  1  0  0  1  6 | d = 3
  0  0  0  0 50  0  0  0  0  0 | e = 4
  0  0  0  0  0 49  1  0  0  0 | f = 5
  0  0  0  0  0  0 46  0  4  0 | g = 6
  1  0  0  0  0  0  0 49  0  0 | h = 7
  0  0  1  2  0  1  2  0 34 10 | i = 8
  0  0  0  8  0  0  1  0  3 38 | j = 9

```

Figure 8: confusion matrix

### 4.3 Sixth Dataset with 30% noise

We set: learning rate = 0.3, momentum = 0.2, Stopping criteria: 500 epochs

hidden layers	hidden nodes	Training accuracy
1	6	97.4%
1	7	99%
1	8	99%
2	each layer 4 nodes	89.2%
2	each layer 5 nodes	95.8%
2	each layer 8 nodes	99.4%

As we can see, 7 and 8 hidden nodes both achieve 99% training accuracy. In terms of time consuming, 7 nodes performance better. Furthermore, 2 hidden layers with 8 nodes in each could achieve 99.4% training accuracy. When we test the neural network with 2 hidden layers and 16 hidden nodes, it could only achieve 78.6% accuracy. In comparison with KNN,

```

=== Confusion Matrix ===
  a  b c  d e f g h i j <-- classified as
39  4  0  0  3  1  0  0  2  1 | a = 0
  0 46  0  0  0  0  0  3  0  1 | b = 1
  0  2 46  2  0  0  0  0  0  0 | c = 2
  0  0  3 33  0  1  4  0  6  3 | d = 3
  0  0  0  0 48  1  0  1  0  0 | e = 4
  0  0  0  1  0 45  3  0  0  1 | f = 5
  0  0  1  3  0  3 33  0  7  3 | g = 6
  0  1  0  0  1  0  0 48  0  0 | h = 7
  1  0  0 13  0  0  6  0 25  5 | i = 8
  0  0  0 12  0  2  3  0  3 30 | j = 9

```

Figure 9: confusion matrix

the KNN also achieve 78.6% accuracy in the test set. In terms of time consuming, the KNN performs better.

### 4.4 Fourth Dataset with 60% noise

We set: learning rate = 0.3, momentum = 0.2, Stopping criteria: 500 epochs



hidden layers	hidden nodes	Training accuracy
1	10	92.6%
1	15	97%
1	20	96.8%
1	50	97.4%
2	each layer 5 nodes	73.6%
2	each layer 10 nodes	94.4%
2	each layer 15 nodes	96.6%
3	each layer 15 nodes	97.6%

With 3 hidden layers and 15 nodes in each hidden layer, the neural network seems could reach a decent result. However, when apply it to the test set. The classification accuracy drop to 47.6%. On the other hand, one hidden layer with 15 nodes could get 54% accuracy. In comparison with KNN, the KNN could only achieve 43.6% accuracy. The neural network have better noise denoising ability.

## 5 Symbolic Regression Problem

Symbolic regression is one of the best known problems in GP[1]. Symbolic regression is a type of regression analysis that searches the space of mathematical expressions to find the model that best fits a given dataset, both in terms of accuracy and simplicity.

### 5.1 Function set and terminal set

In the function set, the 6 operators were used to form the function set:

$$FuncSet = \{+, -, \times, \div, \cos, \sin\}$$

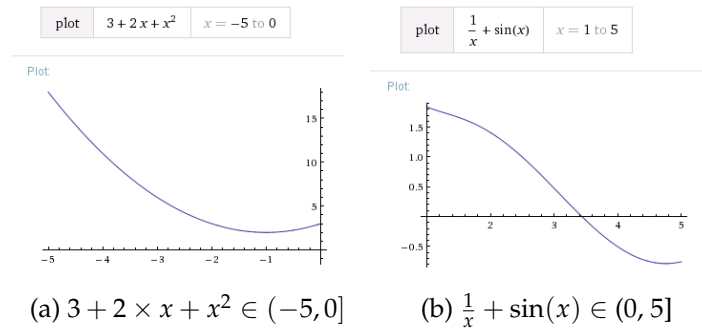
The terminal set contains constants and the arguments. In this case, the constants are numerics value from 0 to 9.

Since this given function is a piecewise function:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{x} + \sin x & , \quad x > 0 \\ 2x + x^2 + 3.0 & , \quad x \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

Figure 10: Target formula

In terms of simplicity, we only choose to search for the best solution range from (-5, 5).



## 5.2 Parameters

In this problem, we use population = 40, cross rate = 0.6, mutation rate = 0.1

## 5.3 Fitness Function

We use the result minus the desire value, and sum up each part of the formula. Then divide the sum by 10 as we use 10 numbers to validate the result.

pseudocode:

```
for from -5 to 5 :  
    sum+ = genetic_program_func(i) - desired_value  
    fitness = sum/10  
    fitness = fitness + 1
```

As we can see, the smaller the fitness is, the better result it generate.

## 5.4 Termination criteria

There are two ways to decide when to stop. First one is we manually decide how many generation to run. The second choice is we set a threshold of the fitness, when the fitness reach that threshold, it stops.

## 5.5 Result Analysis

As the more accuracy the GP generated, the larger the formula it will be. This is genetic program using 150 generations:

$$(x + ((x - 3) \times x))$$

After 200 generations, although the fitness become more and more small, the genetic program become human unreadable.

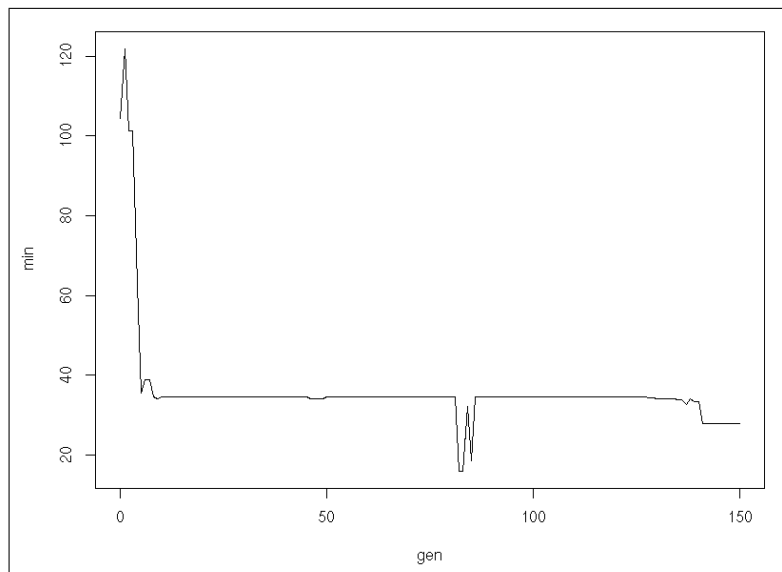


Figure 11: the fitness drops along with generations

## 6 Digit Recognition

The question is using genetic programming to automatically find out a genetic program to solve the binary classification problem.

### 6.1 Primitive set and terminal set

For this problem, the program uses a primitive set contains six operations:

$$FuncSet = \{+, -, \times, \div, absolute, square\}$$

The terminal set contains constants and the arguments. In this case, the constants are numerics value from 0 to 9. There are two dataset: liver and pima. Each of the two dataset contains different features. Liver dataset contains 6 features and pima dataset contains 8 features. We use each of the feature as our input parameter.

$$TermSet = \{Features\}$$

### 6.2 Parameters

In this problem, we use population = 30, cross rate = 0.6, mutation rate = 0.1

### 6.3 Fitness Function

First calculate the result with all input parameters, if the result is greater than 0, then judge if the desired class is 1, if it is true, then the fitness add 1 over the length of the dataset.

pseudocode:

```
predict_value = genetic_program(parameters)
Loop the whole dataset :
  if predict_classes > 0 && desired_class == 1 :
    fitness = fitness + 1/(size of the dataset)
  else if predict_class <= 0 && desired_class == 0 :
    fitness = fitness + 1/(size of the dataset)
```

Eventually, the fitness will show the percentage of accuracy classification.

### 6.4 Termination criteria

There are two ways to stop the GP, one is manually set a stop criteria, for example, the process will stop if it reach 200 generations. The other way is set an accuracy threshold, for example, if the genetic program could reach 90% accuracy, then the process stopped.

### 6.5 Result Analysis

After testing for many round, the genetic program could easily reach 70% accuracy on both datasets but so far the best one could only reach 75% accuracy.

The report did 15 times running on each dataset, the mean accuracy of liver dataset is 67%, the standard deviation is 0.037. For the other dataset:pima, the mean accuracy is 70.08%, and the standard deviation is 0.035.

During the testing, we found sometimes the genetic program could be complete composite by instances. Namely, there is no feature participate in the genetic program. The reason might be the instances in the dataset is uneven. In order to eliminate any influence that comes from the uneven number of instances, we randomly delete some of the instances to make it even. Then we repeat the experiment. Interestingly, the accuracy drops in both dataset.

## 7 Feature Construction

Feature construction methods may be applied to pursue two distinct goals: reducing data dimensionality and improving prediction performance. In this question, we apply feature construction method using genetic programming (GP). In this report, it mainly focus on reducing data dimensionality. We apply this strategy on two dataset: wine and balance.

In the feature construction paradigm, GP is used to derive a new feature set from the original one. Individuals are often tree like representations of features, the fitness function is usually based on the prediction performance of the classifier trained on these features while the operators can be applications specific. The method essentially performs a search in the new feature space and helps generate a high performance subset of features. The newly generated features may often be more comprehensible and intuitive than the original feature set, which makes GP-related methods well-suited for such tasks.

### 7.1 Fitness function

We used classification accuracy on the training set as the fitness function. We first use genetic program to calculate all the objects in the wine or balance dataset. Then, we use this new feature to train naive bayes classifier or decision tree classifier. The classification accuracy is the number of object that are correctly classified by the classifier as a proportion of the total number of object in the training set.

### 7.2 Result Analysis

First, we apply naive bayes classifier and GP feature construction on wine dataset. The parameter values used in this approach are shown in table1. These values are determined based on empirical search. In this approach, the learning/evolutionary process is terminated when one of the following conditions is met: 1. The accuracy is higher than 95%. 2. The number of generations reaches the pre-defined number, max\_generations. The best performance genetic program (lisp program):

$$(-(\times(f6, \div(1, f10)), \div(\div(\div(1, f10), f10), f10)))$$

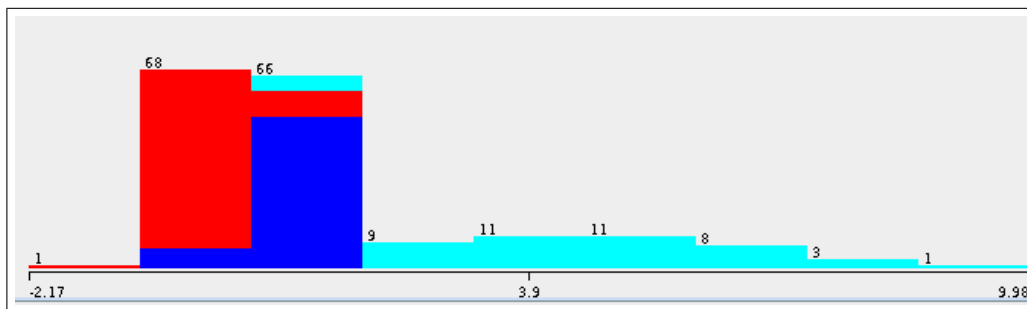


Figure 12: new feature separate three classes

We could easily see from figure 12, the new feature successfully separate the classes in the dataset, although there exists overlapping.

Then, we test the performance of this new feature with Weka. The results are shown below:

Correctly Classified Instances	156	87.6404 %
Incorrectly Classified Instances	22	12.3596 %



## 8 Feature Selection

In this question, this report chooses two single feature ranking algorithms (Information Gain and Chi-square) and apply them to Wisconsin Breast Cancer and Sonar data sets. Then the report gives two comparison, one is compare the performance of the classifier using all the features with n top features. The other one is comparison between filter approach and wrapper approach.

### 8.1 Information Gain and Chi-square ranking algorithm

In this question, we would use Weka to solve our problem. First, we apply information gain ranking algorithm, then we apply naive bayes to do the classification.

We apply IG on sonar dataset. Search Method: Attribute ranking. Attribute Evaluator (supervised, Class (nominal): 61 classes): Information Gain Ranking Filter

Ranked	Feature
0.2014	f11
0.1779	f12
0.1498	f9
0.143	f10
0.1208	f13

As a result, the top 5 features are 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. Then we apply this 5 features in classification. The table below shows the result:

Correctly Classified Instances	146	70.1923 %
Incorrectly Classified Instances	62	29.8077 %

We then use Chi-square ranking algorithm to select features. Interestingly, the Chi-square choose the exact same top 5 features: f11, f12, f9, f10, f13 So we already compute the accuracy of choosing these 5 features.

As a comparison, we apply all 60 features on sonar dataset: We also use naive bayes in this task:

Correctly Classified Instances	152	73.0769 %
Incorrectly Classified Instances	56	26.9231 %

The result shows that there is still some advantages in using all features especially the dataset or the number of feature is relatively small.

We apply information gain on wdbc dataset: Information Gain Ranking Filter

Ranked	Feature
0.685	f23
0.6686	f24
0.6665	21
0.6478	f28
0.6347	f8

Then we use these 5 features in classification. The result shows:

Correctly Classified Instances	538	94.5518 %
Incorrectly Classified Instances	31	5.4482 %

Then we use Chi-square to do the ranking, as the same with the previous dataset, we got the same selection of features: f8, f21, f23, f24, f28

In comparison, we use all 30 features:

Correctly Classified Instances	534	93.8489 %
Incorrectly Classified Instances	35	6.1511 %

The top features could provide a better result than using all features. It is not only efficient but also effective.

## 8.2 Comparison between wrapper and filter approaches

First we apply wrapper approach on sonar dataset using BestFirst as our search method. The result shows that there are 5 features get selected: 12, 17, 18, 24, 39. Then we apply these 5 features in classification:

Correctly Classified Instances	160	76.9231 %
Incorrectly Classified Instances	48	23.0769 %

As the result shows, using wrapper approach, the accuracy could reach 76.9%, better than using all 60 features (73%) and the Information Gain top 5 features (70.2%). The reason probably because the wrapper approach tries all possible subset of features and select the best performance combination. However, the filter approach only treat each attribute as independent feature and test on each attribute individually. The result of filter approach might not be so good because some of these selected features are redundant.

We then test wrapper approach on wdbc dataset. The wrapper approach shows that there are 6 features being selected: 12, 15, 19, 22, 23, 25. Then we use these 6 features on wdbc classification:

Correctly Classified Instances	553	97.188 %
Incorrectly Classified Instances	16	2.812 %

The result shows the features selected by wrapper approach could reach a better result, compare with using all 30 features (93.8%) and use information gain 5 top ranking features (94.6%).

## 8.3 Conclusions

Although using the wrapper approach could get slightly better result, in terms of efficient and effective, the wrapper approach might not be the best choice because of the extra computation. In practice, to choose which approach in use still depend on the question, if the question is not urgent or require high accuracy, the information gain top features could be a good choice. However, some task like diseases classification which require high level accuracy, the wrapper approach is more suitable.

## References

- [1] KOZA, J. R. *Genetic programming: on the programming of computers by means of natural selection*, vol. 1. MIT press, 1992.